THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir. Government are ware of the accidents occuring in Visakhatpatnam Steel Plant including Steel Melting Shop Zone. However, there was no loss of production/property attributed to the accidents.

(b) and (c) The details of accidents involving loss of life that took place in SMS Zone during the last three years and the details of the compensation paid in respect of regular employees are furnished below :

Year	Reportable	Fatal	Workmens Compensation Paid (in Rs.)
1991 .	38	—	—
1992 .	65	3	2,49,572
1993 .	24	—	—

Reportable accidents are those where the injured employee is unable to attend duty for 2 days and more. However, as already mentioned in part (a) there was no loss of production/property directly attributable to the accidents.

(d) and (e) It is understood from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh that the magisterial enquiry initiated by it in October, 1993 under the Joint Collector, Visakhapatnam has been completed after examining number of witnesses on 28th March, 1994.

Effect of foreign steel goods on Indian Market

4164. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether foreign steel companies specially from Japan, South Korea, U.K., Brazil and Argentina are trying to catch in on the present market conditions prevailing in India and dump their products in the Indian market;

(b) if so, whether leading industries in steel market and the Steel Authority of India Limited's Chairman had requested the Union Steel Minister to persuade the Finance Minister to reconsider the budget proposal for reducing the duties to 35%.

(c) whether the steel industry has pointed out that the domestic steel makers would vanish with invasion of foreign goods in the Indian market;

(d) whether according to industry experts more than 50% of the electric furnace units have no option but to close down as their cost of production is much higher than the international level; and

(e) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF TH E MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Import of steel has not shown an increasing trend so far. Steel imports during 1993-94 are estimated to have declined by about 8% as compared to the previous year 1992-93.

(b) and (c) Representations have been received from different sections of the steel industry including the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) regarding the anticipated impact on domestic industry due to lowering of import duties in the budget for 1994-95, particularly for certain items like plates, HR Coils, CR Coils, Tinplate, etc. and the general increase in excise duty on steel items.

(d) Out of 180 commissioned electric arc furnace units 85 are reported closed as on 23-2-94. Out of these, 55 have been closed for more than two years. Reasons for closure include financial, labour and managerial problems, depressed market conditions and increase in input cost particularly the high cost of imported steel melting scrap.

(e) Import duty on steel melting scrap has been reduced from 12.5% to 10% in the budget for 1994-95 to provide relief to electric arc furnace units. The industry has requested for various reliefs such as further reduction of import duty on scrap and reduction of excise duty on their products. The representation made by the industry is under consideration.

Trade Unions Movement against Privatisation of IISCO

4165. SHRI GAYA SINGH :
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the general secretaries of the five central trade unions— INTUC, CITU, AITUC, HMS and BMS have sent a fax message to Prime Minister asking him to handover atleast 50 per cent of the company's share capital to the workers at the plant in a bid to stall the Government's move to privatise Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) The leaders of the five Central Trade Unions have, in the context of their opinion expressed before the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry that IISCO should be modernised by SAIL and should not be handed over to a private sector undertaking, written to the

Prime Minister stating that, if the situation demands, the workers are prepared to take over IISCO as a Joint Venture provided SAIL will have 50 per cent ownership and workers will have 50 per cent ownership. The modalities of the take over could be negotiated with Government.

Government have sought further details in this regard from the Trade Unions.

Modernisation of IISCO

4166. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to sell off the surplus land belonging to IISCO to raise funds for its modernisation;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the IISCO is suffering losses due to various reasons and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what other concrete steps now Government propose to take to modernise the IISCO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No decision to this affect has been taken by Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. As on 31-3-93 IISCO had an accumulated loss of over Rs. 816.00 crores. The losses are due to various reasons such as technological obsolescence, ageing of plant and equipment, outmoded operational practices, etc.

(d) Government have decided to allow private sector participation in the equity and management of IISCO for the purpose of ensuring expeditious modernisation of its Burnpur Steelworks. Government proposed to introduce a Bill for empowering Government to allow Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) to transfer its shareholdings in IISCO to private persons for this purpose. The Bill was under consideration of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Commitee on Indusrty which has presented its report to the House on 19-4-94.

Concessional Rates fixed by Land and Development Office, New Delhi

4167. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of concessional rates fixed by the Land and Development Office (L&DO), New Delhi, for the Societies, registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (A Central Act) for allotment of Land in Delhi, for opening of new charitable Institutions for serving lower strata of society, and to charge amount only to the extent of running the Institution on non-profit making character having maximum requirement of Land upto two acres;

(b) whether Land and Development Office, New Delhi has been empowered to allot land to such Institutions referred in part (a) above, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the names and details of the authorities empowered for such allotment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) No land rates are fixed by the Land and Development Office of this Ministry. The rates are fixed by the Ministry on the recommendations of a Committe constituted for this purpose by the Ministry. The land rates for allotment of land on lease hold basis to charitable Institution serving lower strata of the Society running partially on the grants received from the Government and charging to the extent of running the Institutions are as under :—

Rs. 10.00 lakhs per acre as premium for 1st one acre and rest at Zonal variant Institution at rate plus 5% of the premium as annual ground rent. The zonal variant Institutional rates are as under :—

Zone-I Central Zone Zone-II South Zone	Rs. 70.00 lakhs per acre.
Zone-III West Delhi Zone-IV North Delhi	Rs. 45.00 lakhs per acre
Zone-V East Delhi Zone-VI Narela and other outlying Colonies	Rs. 27.00 lakhs per acre

The rates were valid upto 31-3-94.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Land and Development Office is not empowered to allot land. The Minister of Urban Development is empowered to approve allotment of land. The applicants are required to get their application forwarded/recommended from the concerned Ministry. Thereafter the requests are considered by a Screening Committee Constituted for this purpose. On recommendations of the Screening